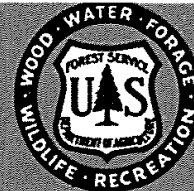


**RESEARCH NOTE**

**CENTRAL STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION  
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

**R. D. LANE, DIRECTOR**

CS-3

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ILLINOIS PRODUCES 122 MILLION BOARD FEET OF LUMBER IN 1961

A comprehensive survey of 1961 lumber production was completed in Illinois through the combined efforts of the Forestry Department of the University of Illinois and the Division of Forestry of the Illinois Department of Conservation. These state agencies contacted all known sawmill operators in Illinois either by mail or in person. The lumber output data gathered from the canvass were turned over to the Station for compilation and summary. The detailed information presented here should be valuable to local forestry agencies, timber industries, and other groups or individuals interested in forest production statistics.

Three hundred and fourteen Illinois sawmills located in 81 of the State's 102 counties produced 122 million board feet during 1961 (fig. 1). One hundred and forty-one of them (45 percent of the total) produced less than 50,000 board feet each. Another 106 mills produced between 50,000 and 500,000 board feet, and only 2 produced more than 3,000,000 board feet.

Hard-hardwood species accounted for 70 million board feet or 57 percent of the total Illinois lumber production and the oaks made up more than four-fifths of the hard-hardwood total (table 1). Soft hardwoods accounted for 52 million board feet or 42 percent of all the lumber produced. Less than a half million board feet of softwood lumber, mostly cypress, were sawn. Soft maple, white oak, black oak, cottonwood, and elm, in that order, led all other species in lumber production and together accounted for 68.5 million board feet.

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Less than 1 million

1 - 3 million

**More than 3 million**

ACTIVE SAWMILLS (number)

1 - 5

6 - 10

11 or more 000

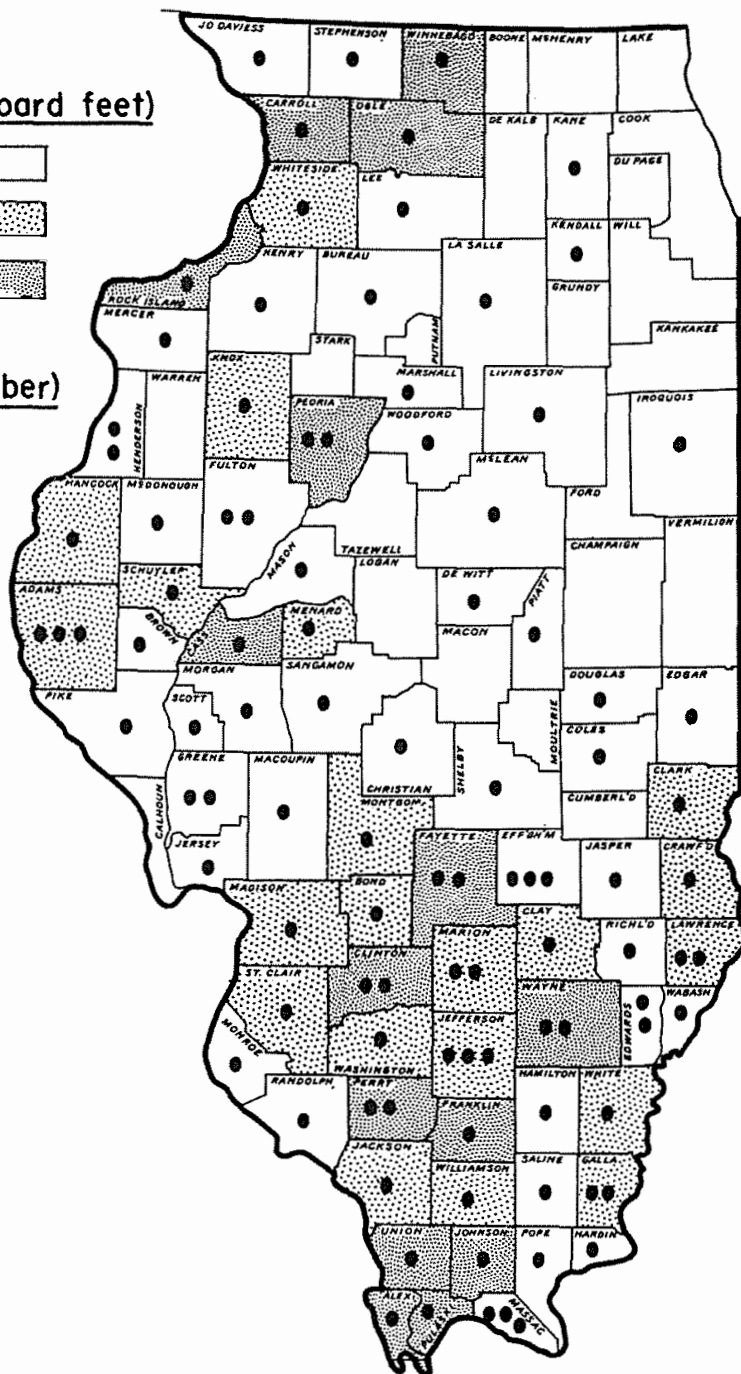


Figure 1.--Lumber production and number of active sawmills  
by county, 1961.

Table 1.--Illinois lumber production by species--1961<sup>1/</sup>

Species	: Thousand : board feet	: Percent : of total
<u>Softwoods</u>		
Cypress	342	0.3
Other softwoods	153	.1
All softwoods	495	0.4
<u>Hard hardwoods</u>		
Oak, white	13,892	11.4
Oak, post	1,255	1.0
Oak, other white	3,921	3.2
Oak, black	13,498	11.1
Oak, scarlet	1,759	1.4
Oak, northern red	8,288	6.8
Oak, pin	6,409	5.2
Oak, other red	8,771	7.2
Ash	2,801	2.3
Hickory	1,782	1.5
Maple, hard	2,701	2.2
Walnut	2,969	2.4
Other hard hdwds.	1,644	1.4
All hard hdwds.	69,690	57.1
<u>Soft hardwoods</u>		
Basswood	638	0.5
Cottonwood	12,550	10.3
Elm	10,127	8.3
Maple, soft	18,395	15.1
Sweetgum	2,770	2.3
Sycamore	4,817	3.9
Yellow-poplar	1,353	1.1
Other soft hdwds.	1,159	1.0
All soft hdwds.	51,809	42.5
All species	121,994	100.0

<sup>1/</sup> The Illinois lumber production total given here (122 million board feet) coincides with the official Federal Government estimate reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in the publication "Lumber Production and Mill Stocks, 1961." Census estimates were developed by means of a statistical sampling procedure. The above totals by species-groups are within the associated standard error of estimate noted in the Census publication.

As would be expected, the Illinois counties with the most lumber production are located in the more heavily timbered regions of the State. Production exceeded a million board feet in each of 36 counties (24 of them in southern Illinois). In each of 15 counties more than 3 million board feet of lumber were sawn. Production surpassed 5 million board feet in only three counties--Wayne, Union, and Clinton.

Illinois sawmill operators indicated that wholesalers bought more than half (51 percent) their 1961 lumber production. Another 26 percent went directly to wood-using factories. The remaining 23 percent was contract sawn, custom sawn, sold to local yards and individuals, or retained by the sawmill operators.

About two-thirds of the Illinois sawmills are stationary. All but a few have circular headsaws. Gasoline engines supply the power for half of them and most of the rest are powered by diesel or electricity.

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